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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

United States Department of Agriculture and State
Agricultural Colleges, Cooperating

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK

Produce the Infertile Egg for Market

Prepared by the Animal Husbandry Division
Bureau of Animal Industry
United States Department of Agriculture

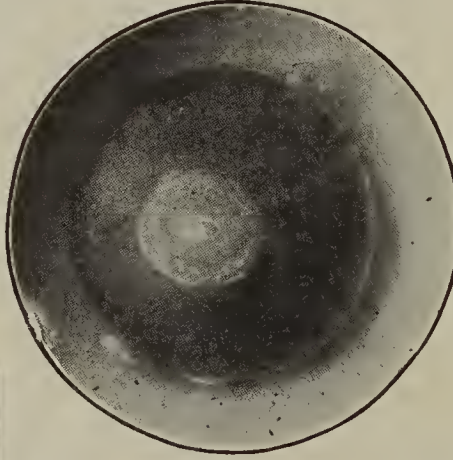


CIRCULAR 15

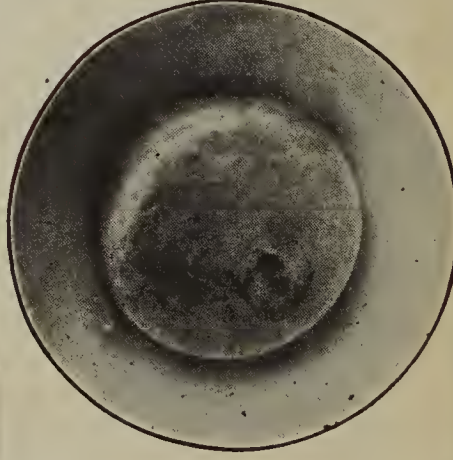
Office of Extension Work, North and West
States Relations Service

PRODUCE INFERTILE EGGS!

FERTILE EGGS SPOIL QUICKLY
IN SUMMER WEATHER.

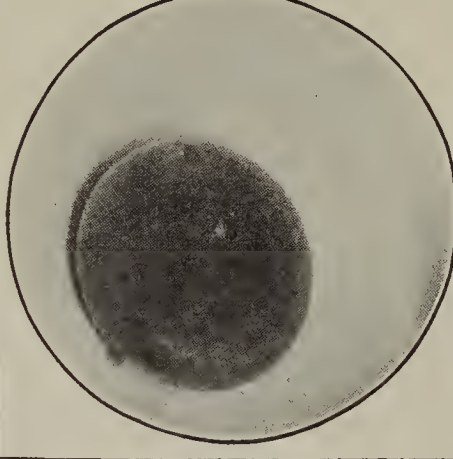


No. 1. Fertile egg after 24 hours at 103° F.
FERTILE GERM BEGINNING TO HATCH.
NOT PERFECT FOR FOOD.

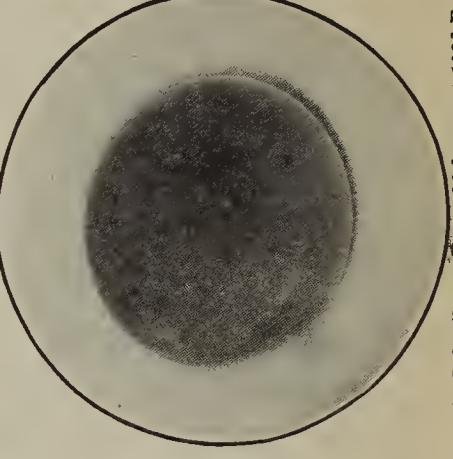


No. 2. Fertile egg after 36 hours at 103° F.

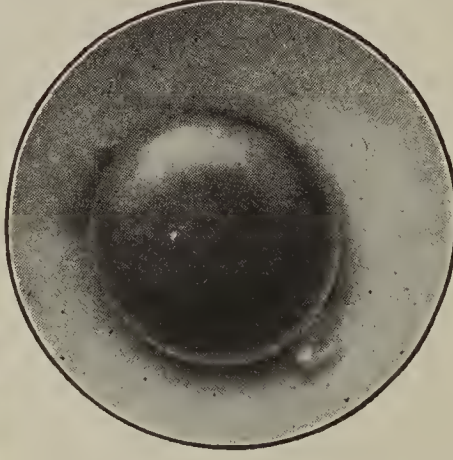
INFERTILE EGGS KEEP BEST AND
MARKET BEST IN SUMMER HEAT.



1A. Infertile egg after 24 hours at 103° F.
NO FERTILE GERM. NO BLOOD RING. STILL GOOD
FOOD. IT WOULD BE STILL BETTER IF KEPT COOL.



2A. Infertile egg after 36 hours at 103° F.
COMPARE WITH FERTILE EGG UNDER THE
SAME CONDITIONS.



FRESH EGG.

**FERTILE EGGS COST THE FARMER
\$15,000,000 A YEAR.**

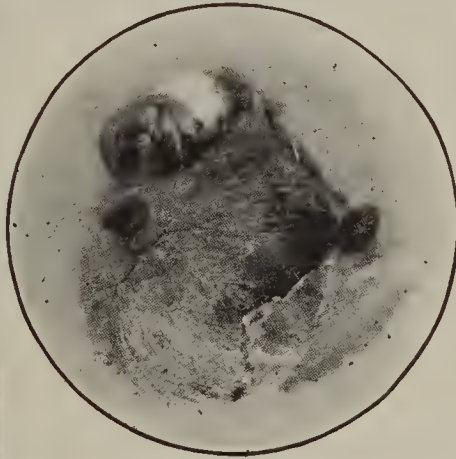
Farmers lose \$45,000,000 annually from bad methods of producing and handling eggs. One-third of this loss is preventable, because it is due to the partial hatching of fertile eggs which have been allowed to become warm enough to begin to incubate.

fertilizes the germ of the egg. The fertile germ in hot weather quickly becomes a blood ring, which spoils the egg for food and market. Summer heat has the same effect on fertile eggs as the hen or incubator.

No. 3. Fertile egg after 48 hours at 103° F.
BLOOD RING FULLY DEVELOPED. UNFIT FOR MARKET.
WILL BE THROWN OUT BY CANDLER.



No. 4. Fertile egg after 72 hours at 103° F.
BLOOD VESSELS OF EMBRYO CHICK CLEARLY MARKED.



No. 5. Fertile egg after 7 days at 103° F.
COMPARE WITH INFERTILE EGG AND FRESH EGG.

INFERTILE EGGS WILL NOT BECOME BLOOD RINGS.

After the hatching season cook, sell, or pen your rooster. Your hens not running with a male bird will produce infertile eggs—quality eggs that keep best and market best.

RULES FOR HANDLING EGGS ON THE FARM.

Heat is the great enemy of eggs, both fertile and infertile. Farmers are urged to follow these simple rules, which cost nothing but time and thought and will add dollars to the poultry yard returns:

1. Keep the nests clean; provide one nest for every four hens.
2. Gather the eggs twice daily.
3. Keep the eggs in a cool, dry room or cellar.
4. Market the eggs at least twice a week.
5. Sell, kill, or confine all male birds as soon as the hatching season is over.

NOTICE.

Valuable published information on the raising and care of poultry and eggs and individual advice on these subjects may be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

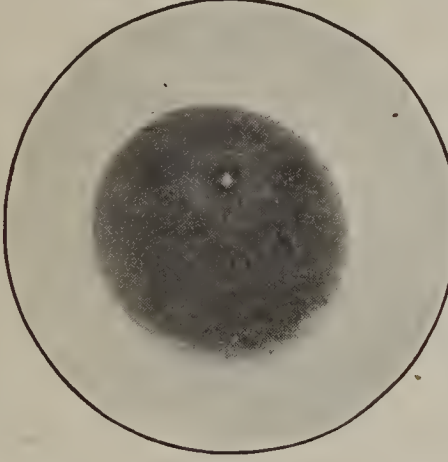
Approved:

D. F. HOUSTON, Secretary of Agriculture,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5, 1915.

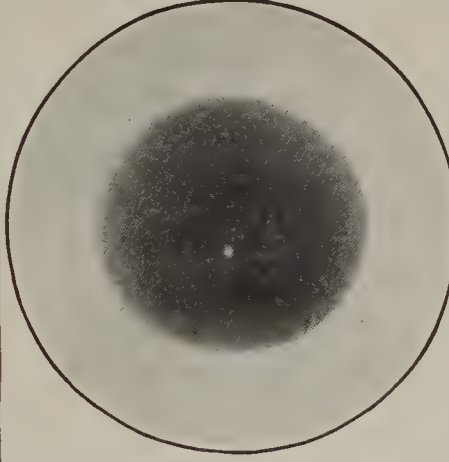
A. D. MELVIN,
Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry.

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3A. Infertile egg after 48 hours at 103° F.
STILL GOOD FOOD.



4A. Infertile egg after 72 hours at 103° F.
NOT AN ABSOLUTELY FRESH EGG,
BUT USEFUL IN COOKERY.



5A. Infertile egg after 7 days at 103° F.
STILL USABLE FOR FOOD. IT WOULD BE A PERFECT
EGG IF IT HAD BEEN KEPT COOL.
COMPARE WITH FRESH EGG AND FERTILE EGG.

Copy of a poster prepared by the Bureau of Animal Industry to be displayed in public places. It is inserted here to show graphically the enormous loss in the annual value of our egg crop due to blood rings. These are traceable directly to improper methods or management on the farm, but may be readily and simply prevented at little or no expense.

It is estimated, as indicated in the preceding poster, that the loss in the United States from improper methods of producing and handling eggs amounts to fully \$45,000,000 each year. Probably one-third of this loss is due to the partial hatching of fertile eggs which have been allowed to become warm enough to incubate, and is preventable.

What is an infertile egg?—An infertile egg is one that is laid by a hen that has not been allowed to run with a male bird. In most cases 14 days is long enough to wait for the eggs to become infertile after the male bird is removed from the females. The male bird in the flock has no influence on the number of eggs the hens lay. He merely fertilizes the germ of the egg, which is not necessary when the egg is to be sent to market or used for table purposes. It is impossible to hatch an infertile egg or to cause a blood ring to form in one. Infertile eggs keep in good condition in temperatures that will cause fertile eggs to rot. After the hatching season, cook, can, sell, or confine all of the male birds. Hens not running with a male bird will produce infertile eggs—quality eggs that keep best and market best.

What is a fertile egg?—A fertile egg is just the opposite of the infertile in many respects. It is the egg that is produced from hens that are running with male birds, although occasionally there are hens running with male birds that lay infertile eggs. This is often the case with hens that are confined in yards and runs, and birds that do not have green feed, or those that are overfat. The fertile egg should only be produced during the breeding season. The fertile egg is the one from which the chick is hatched, and that spoils quickly when subjected to the ordinary methods of handling on the farm and when marketed in the hot summer months.

To prevent spoilage of eggs club members are urged to follow carefully the simple rules for handling eggs given at the end of the poster on the preceding page.

NOTE.—This is one of a series of follow-up circulars (the K series) printed for the exclusive use of club members and club leaders. Persons desiring poultry literature should write to their State agricultural college or the U. S. Department of Agriculture.